



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

News Release



Cooperating with Colorado Department of Agriculture
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September 11, 2009

CROP PRODUCTION - September 2009

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

The **corn** yield forecast is now estimated at 138.0 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel above last year's final yield, but 2 bushels below the August 1 forecast. The forecast for harvested acres was at 1,000,000 acres, down 80,000 acres from the area harvested for grain in 2008. Corn production is forecast at 138.00 million bushels, 7 percent less than last year's production. The **sorghum** yield is forecast at 32.0 bushels per acre, 3.0 bushels below the August 1 forecast, but 2.0 bushels above last year's crop. Growers are expected to harvest 140,000 acres, placing production at 4.48 million bushels, down slightly from the 4.5 million bushels last year, with 10,000 acres less harvested than last year. The **summer potato** yield forecast was unchanged from July 1 at 400 cwt per acre, up 30 cwt from last year's average yield. Growers are expected to harvested 3,900 acres, down 500 acres from last year's harvested area. Production is forecast at 1.56 million cwt., 68,000 cwt below last year's production. The **sugarbeet** yield is forecast at 27.7 tons per acre, down 1.3 tons from the August 1 forecast but 1.2 tons above last year's yield. Production is now forecast at 970,000 tons from 35,000 harvested acres, up from last year's 758,000 tons from 28,600 acres.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at 13.0 billion bushels, up 2 percent from last month and 7 percent higher than 2008. Based on conditions as of September 1, yields are expected to average 161.9 bushels per acre, up 2.4 bushels from August and 8.0 bushels above last year. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record and production will be the second largest, behind 2007. Yield forecasts increased from last month across the western Corn Belt and the northern half of the Great Plains as mild temperatures and adequate soil moisture supplies provided favorable growing conditions. Yield prospects were unchanged in the eastern Corn Belt where dry conditions during August depleted soil moisture supplies.

Sorghum production is forecast at 390 million bushels, up 2 percent from last month but down 18 percent from last year. Expected area for harvest as grain is forecast at 5.95 million acres, unchanged from August but down 18 percent from 2008. Based on September 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 65.5 bushels per acre, up 1.5 bushels from August and up 0.5 bushel from last year. The Nation's sorghum crop was rated 49 percent good to excellent, compared with 51 percent at the same time last year. Yield forecasts are at or above last month's levels in all of the major sorghum-producing States except Colorado.

Summer Potatoes production is forecast at 14.7 million cwt, up 1 percent from the July forecast and 7 percent above 2008. Harvested area is estimated at 42,500 acres, unchanged from the July forecast but 6 percent below last year. Average yield is forecast at 346 cwt per acre, up 5 cwt from July and up 40 cwt from 2008. If realized, Colorado's yield, at 400 cwt per acre, will be a record high. Growing conditions were reported as very good despite early hail damage.

Sugarbeets production for the 2009 crop year is forecast at 31.3 million tons, 4 percent below the August 1 forecast but up 17 percent from last year. Production forecasts remained unchanged or decreased from August in all estimating States except Montana. Growers expect to harvest 1.16 million acres, up fractionally from the August 1 forecast and 15 percent above last year. Expected yield is forecast at 27.0 tons per acre, down 1.2 tons from August but up 0.3 ton from 2008. If realized, this will be a record high yield. Record yields are also expected in Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, and Wyoming.